GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4499
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several persons were sent abroad for mobilising international support against terrorism after September 11, 2001;

(b) if so, the date-wise names of persons sent abroad alongwith the names of the countries visited by them;

(c) whether the persons sent abroad have submitted their reports to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any action plan was formulated and given to them before sending them abroad; and

(f) if so, the outlines thereof?

Answer

THE MINSITER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) - (f) Over the last several years, India has played an active role in drawing the attention of the international community to the need for comprehensive, coordinated, sustained and well integrated international cooperation to combat terrorism. In the post September 11 period, there is increased acceptance that terrorism is a global phenomenon; its destructive reach and lethal potential has been enhanced by global networks of illicit trafficking in drugs, money laundering and arms smuggling.

The issue of international terrorism, in particular cross border terrorism, has been taken up in all our bilateral interactions. This issue was discussed during Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee`s visits to USSR (November 4-7, 2001), USA (Washington November 8-9, 2001, New York, November 10-11, 2001), UK (November 12-13, 2001), and Japan (7-11 December, 2001).It was discussed also during the visits of External Affairs Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh, toFrance (September 28-30, 2001), USA (Washington, October 1-2, 2001), UK (October 3, 2001), Germany (October 4-5, 2001), USSR (November 4-7, 2001), USA Washington, November 8-9, 2001, New York, November 10-14, 2001),and Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Omar Abdullah to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (September 12-18, 2001), Maldives (October 3-5, 2001), Belgium (October 15-16, 2001), Zambia (October 22-24, 2001), Kenya (October 25-26, 2001), Belarus (November 15-17, 2001), South Africa (November 27-29, 2001)and Ukraine (November 30 - December 3, 2001).

As part of our efforts to combat terrorism, India has taken the initiative to circulate a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to plug the loopholes and gaps that arose from the sectoral conventions on terrorism. This draft Convention, aimed at strengthening international cooperation to combat international terrorism, calls on all States to adopt measures to ensure that criminal acts within the scope of the Convention are, under no circumstances justifiable by considerations of political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature. The Convention also calls on all States to take all practicable measures to prohibit the establishment and operation of terrorist installations and training camps, and to either prosecute or extradite terrorists. At the 54th session of the UNGA, in 1999, it was decided that the Indian draft Comprehensive Convention would be taken up for discussion in the Sixth Committee of the United Nations.Three rounds of discussions have taken place since October 2000. Agreement has been reached on most aspects of the Convention. The UN Secretary General has also held informal consultations to ensure expeditious finalisation of the Convention. Negotiations are continuing.